



– For Immediate Release –  
Friday, October 17, 2008

## **IIMPACT detectives investigate West Phoenix drop house**

*Six suspected human smugglers arrested and nine undocumented immigrants rescued*

On October 15, 2008, IIMPACT received a call from a woman who said her common-law husband was being held in a drop house against his will. She told detectives she has been receiving ransom calls. On October 16, 2008, at about 6 p.m., IIMPACT detectives were able to determine the location of a suspect in the case and began surveillance of a home at 5835 W. Mackenzie in Phoenix. They observed two suspects driving a vehicle from the house. The vehicle was stopped and the two suspects were taken into custody. A van then left the residence. The van was stopped and two people, a male and female, were arrested. The male admitted to being a guard at the drop house and stated the female was making the ransom calls.

A few minutes later specially trained Phoenix Police officers entered the residence. Inside the house were nine undocumented immigrants including a five-year-old female. The child was turned over to Child Protective Services. Detectives believe the little girl crossed the border with her grandmother but was separated along the way. She had no family with her at the drop house. Due to the five-year-old being present, human smuggling (a class 3 felony) will be charged to the appropriate suspects. The husband who was being held for ransom was among the victims rescued.

All eight adult undocumented aliens were turned over to the custody of ICE.

Suspects:	Age:	Charges:
Anel Jovana Arias-Montes De Oca	23	Theft by Extortion, Human Smuggling
Gustavo Segura-Castillo	34	Theft by Extortion, Human Smuggling
Juan Manuel Villanueva-Garcia	20	Theft by Extortion, Human Smuggling
Nabor Hernandez-Arellano	34	Theft by Extortion, Human Smuggling
Placido Lara-Rojas	24	Theft by Extortion, Human Smuggling
Pedro Gonzales-Martinez	21	Theft by Extortion, Human Smuggling

"These human smugglers have absolutely no humanity. They victimize small children just as freely as adults as they extort their victims for cash. Another excellent job by IIMPACT detectives who stopped these criminals," said Roger Vanderpool, director of DPS.

IIMPACT (Illegal Immigration Prevention & Apprehension Co-op Team) was formed almost a year ago. It is a multi-agency project managed by GIITEM of the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) that is designed to address rising crime associated with illegal immigration. IIMPACT is comprised of DPS, Phoenix Police, ICE and the Arizona Fraudulent Identification Task Force.

### **Press Inquiries:**

PO BOX 6638 | Phoenix, AZ 85005-6638 | [www.azdps.gov](http://www.azdps.gov) | [pio@azdps.gov](mailto:pio@azdps.gov)